



# RAJASTHAN

A JOURNEY THROUGH INDIA

Written and Illustrated by **ABHISHEIKH**

Rajasthan by Abhisheikh  
Illustrations © Abhisheikh  
Text © Pratham Books, 2008

First English Edition: 2008

Illustrations: Abhisheikh

ISBN: 978-81-8479-025-2

Registered Office:  
PRATHAM BOOKS  
633-634, 4th "C" Main, 6th 'B' Cross,  
OMBR Layout, Banaswadi,  
Bangalore 560 043  
☎ 080-25429726 / 27 / 28

Regional Offices:  
Mumbai ☎ 022-65162526  
New Delhi ☎ 011-65684113

Typesetting and Layout by:  
Pratham Books, Delhi

Printed by:  
Jasmine Art Printers Pvt. Ltd.,  
Mumbai

Published by:  
Pratham Books  
[www.prathambooks.org](http://www.prathambooks.org)

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Rajasthan lies in the north-western part of India. A large part of it is desert.



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**Marwari, Mewati and Dhundhari are some of the common languages spoken in Rajasthan.**





**The Rajputs ruled Rajasthan for many centuries. Some of the famous dynasties that ruled Rajasthan are the Sisodias of Mewar, Chauhans of Ajmer, Kachhawas of Amer and Jaipur and Rathors of Jodhpur and Bikaner.**





**These rulers left their mark in the form of forts, havelis and palaces. Some of these are Amer fort near Jaipur, Hawa Mahal in Jaipur, Mehrangarh fort in Jodhpur and Kumbhalgarh fort near Udaipur.**





**The Rajputs were great warriors. The Rajputs claim their ancestry from the sun (Suryavanshi), the moon (Chandravanshi) and fire (Agni). The Gurjara Pratiharas were among the earliest Rajputs who came to Rajasthan.**



**A large part of the state is desert. Camels are the only form of transport in the remote villages of Rajasthan.**





**The Elephant festival is an important festival in Jaipur which is held on the eve of Holi.**



**Blue Pottery is an art form from Persia introduced in Rajasthan by Maharaj Ram Singhji. Blue, green, yellow, dark blue and brown are the colours used. The various articles made from blue pottery are surahis or pots of different shapes and sizes and other items like ashtrays, tiles, flower pots, lamp shades and jars.**



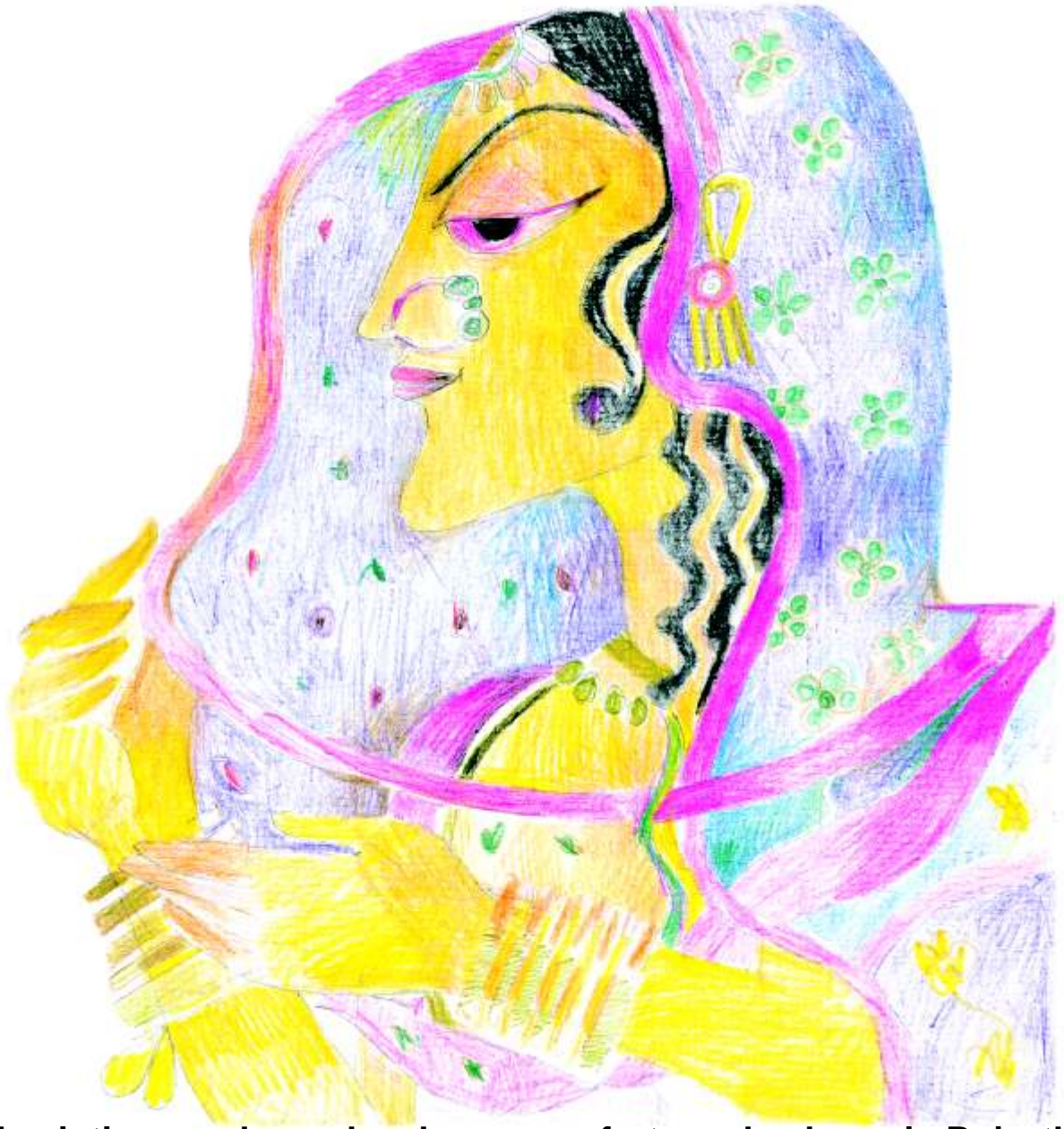


**The Black Buck is an endangered animal found in Rajasthan.  
A community known as the Bishnois worship  
the Black Buck and protect it.**



**Rajasthan has a rich tradition of folk music. Dancing, singing and puppet shows are common forms of entertainment. Each region has its own performers like the dholies, the mirashis and the nats who are patronised by the villagers during fairs and festivals.**





**Wall paintings and murals adorn many forts and palaces in Rajasthan. The Shekhawati region has many such paintings and frescoes which represent folk heroes, historical and religious events.**

## Puppeteer

Sunita lives in a haveli in Sanganer – a small town outside Jaipur. Sanganer is very famous for vegetable dyed fabrics hand printed with wooden blocks. Sunita's father is an exquisite block maker. He carves designs on wooden blocks which are used for printing fabric.

Abdul Chacha lives in Sunita's neighbourhood. He is a puppet maker. Every year he makes new puppets and travels with them to various fairs in Rajasthan. He has a collection of puppets – small and big. There are queens clad in bright costumes, kings with swirling moustaches, warriors with swords in their hands, traders with big bellies. Sunita sits quietly beside Abdul Chacha and watches the rhythmic movement of Chacha's fingers chiselling the soft wood. How effortlessly he carves the nose, the eyes and the lips! The rani has a haughty expression and the raja looks majestic and brave. Sunita likes the trader the most with a big belly and short legs. Abdul Chacha stuffs the body with cloth and adds arms and legs to it. He then dresses it with various types of brightly coloured silk and tie-and-dye fabric. Sunita also brings few pieces of cloth and ties strings to its arms and head. Now the puppet can be moved any way one wishes. Sunita is mesmerized to observe how each puppet comes to life and wishes that some day, when she grows up, she will become a puppeteer.





**They call me naughty Satish,  
I wonder why! I just like to have fun.  
I also love to read story books!!  
I am 12 and study in class 6.**

**Thank you for buying this book.  
My friends and I will get to read many  
more books in our library because  
you bought this book.**



**Abhisheikh has a Bachelor's degree in  
Fine Art (Graphics and Illustrations).  
He has also done animation film  
design from NID, Ahmedabad.  
He specializes in designing catalogues  
and communication materials. He also  
designs glass-etched products.**

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**A Rajasthani woman in  
a traditional dress.**

